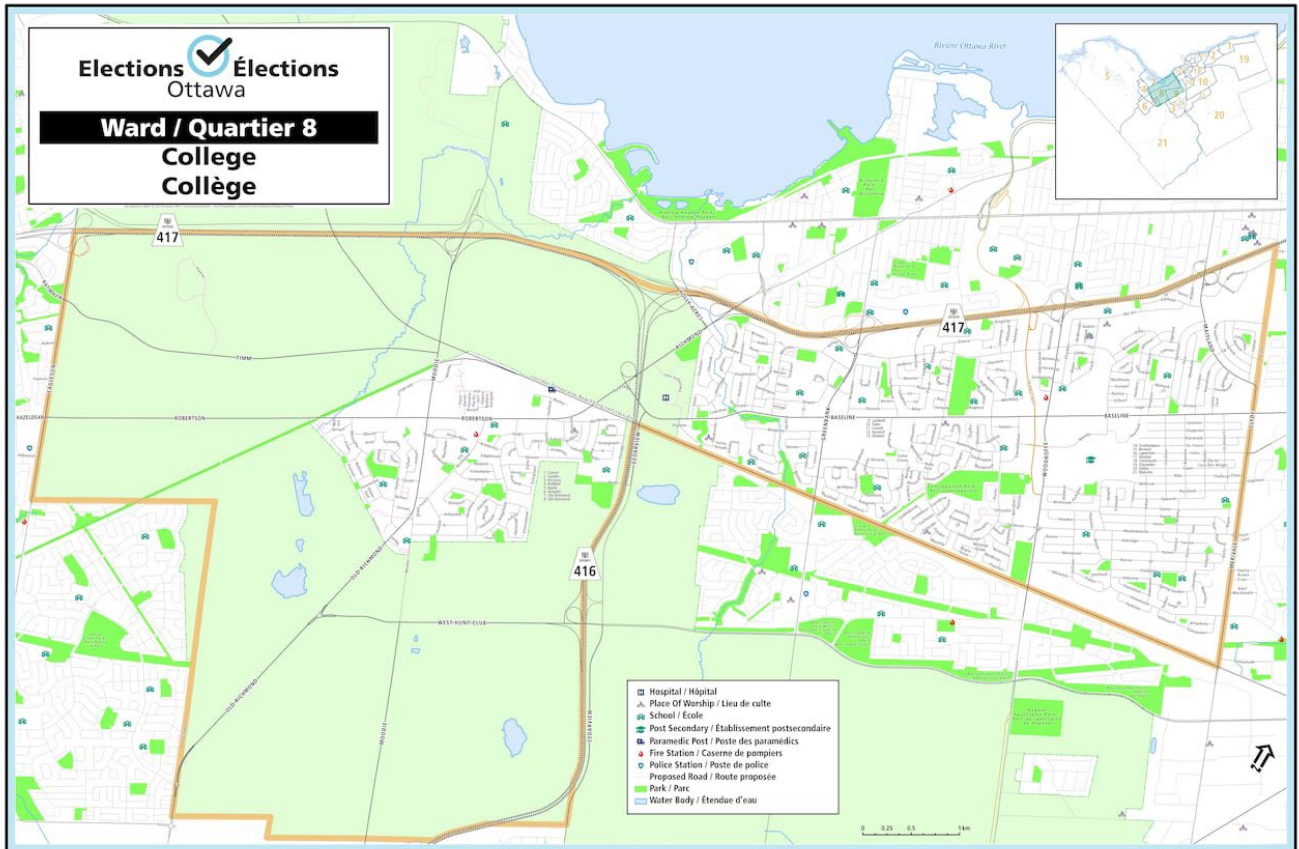


WARD 8

College



2 candidates



Laine Johnson • INCUMBENT

Candidate for City Council • Ward 8 — College

Email: lainejohnson4college@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.lainejohnson.ca/>

Current City profile: [Ottawa.ca](#)

PUBLIC RECORD HIGHLIGHTS

Antisemitism / Nazi symbols (2025): [Johnson tabled a Council motion](#) calling on the federal government to ban Nazi symbols, citing a sharp rise in antisemitism in College Ward, which she described as home to Ottawa's largest Jewish community.

Bubble bylaw vote (2026): [Voted in favour of the April 22, 2026 Council motion](#) approving the Safe Access to Social Infrastructure By-law.

1) What role can the City play to push back against antisemitism and the violent forms of antizionism so Jewish residents can live safely and openly in Ottawa?

Jewish neighbours should not have to choose between full participation in civic life and feeling safe. It is incumbent upon leaders within community, institutions and elected office to be very clear that antisemitism is a real and serious form of hate - the dangers of which, again demonstrated with the recent attack at the Sons of Jacob in Belleville.

All levels of government must always stand against antisemitism. Locally, the City of Ottawa and school boards have a responsibility to use available tools to ensure that Ottawa is a city where Jewish people can work, go to school, worship, and live fully without fear. Local leaders can also advocate and work with provincial and federal governments to leverage their jurisdictional tools to fight hate.

The City plays a critical role in prioritizing resources that enhance protection around Jewish institutions, enforcing bylaws, strengthening relationships with Ottawa Police on hate-motivated incidents and seeking opportunities to deepen and formalize Jewish-community safety partnerships.

Through my work as a city Councillor, I have been grateful to engage members of Jewish community in dialogue about the City's responsibility to combat antisemitism through prevention, protection, enforcement, education and partnership, more specifically:

- I have asked staff to remove antisemitic graffiti as top priority to remove harassing displays that corrode feelings of comfort and safety of our Jewish neighbours.
- I issued public statements following the violent antisemitic attack on a Jewish woman at College Square, collaborating directly with local Jewish leaders on a

plan to help the community heal, including working with a community health centre to offer counselling services.

- In collaboration with B'nai Brith, I moved a motion at City Council to encourage the federal government to ban antisemitic symbols, including the swastika.
- I support consistent enforcement of by-laws (Safe Access, Parks and Facilities, Noise, Traffic, and other applicable by-laws) in response to threatening, obstructive, disruptive or unsafe conduct.
- At the City Council table, I voted in favour of Ottawa's new Safe Access By-law (the bubble-zone bylaw) as an important foundation of safe-access around vulnerable social infrastructure, including places of worship and schools.
- I support the efforts of Ottawa Police's Hate and Bias Crime Unit, and support collaboration with the Jewish community to enhance transparency of information about recurring incidents, vulnerable locations while respecting privacy, community concerns and police independence.
- I support ongoing advocacy for the Province and school-boards to ensure robust policies and training addressing antisemitism, hate, bullying and intimidation and leveraging the provincial Code of Conduct that prohibits hate propaganda and behaviour, and have an established ongoing dialogue with provincial counterparts, specifically MPP Chandra Pasma and MPP Tyler Watt.
- I support advocacy for school boards to implement mandatory antisemitism training for administrators and educators, clarifying reporting mechanisms for Jewish students and families, transparency around investigating antisemitic incidents, addressing antisemitism occurring online when it affects school climate, supporting appropriate security planning for Jewish schools and preventing harassment of Jewish students.
- I support the Federal government's role in enforcing the Criminal Code against hate-motivated crime, threats, incitement and criminal behaviour, and the Combatting Hate Act which strengthens protections against intimidation and obstruction at places of worship, schools and other facilities, with regular communications with federal counterparts, primarily MP Anita Vandenbeld.

2) *Ottawa has seen violent demonstrations where participants have expressed support for terrorist organizations and celebrated the October 7 attacks. What steps should the City take when events on public property cross the line into intimidation, hate, support for terrorism or threats to public safety?*

Peaceful protest is a fundamental democratic right, however the right to protest does not include a right to intimidate a community, obstruct access to places of worship or

schools, commit violence, damage property or engage in any other conduct prohibited by the Criminal Code of Canada or municipal By-laws.

At the municipal level, I support graduated conduct-based enforcement with available tools such as:

- Preparation and coordination for demonstrations with foreseeable risks to safety, traffic or access, through provisions under Ottawa's Highway Events By-law which provides for notification of demonstrations so that City services and Ottawa Police Service can plan for public safety and order.
- Provision of clear information to Organizers about permitted locations, safe-access zones, traffic restrictions, noise requirements, emergency access, prohibited conduct and consequences for violations.
- Real-time enforcement of laws where individuals engage in criminal conduct (e.g., assault, threats, intimidation, property damage, criminal harassment, hate propaganda), and support of Ottawa Police Service to investigate, document and take appropriate action based on evidence of offences relating to public incitement of hatred and wilful promotion of hatred against identifiable groups (per the Criminal Code) and intimidation and obstruction of access to places such as schools and places of worship and hate-crime offence (per the federal Combatting Hate Act).
- Enforcement of applicable municipal By-laws concerning obstruction, access, noise, traffic, parks and municipal property (Ottawa's Safe Access By-law).
- Post-event accountability whereby City documentation of recurring problems is shared with Ottawa Police Service and affected communities to evaluate repeat locations, trend analysis and risk assessments.

Ottawa taxpayers have invested heavily in patrolling public demonstrations and protests, and the Ottawa Police Service has undertaken enforcement actions, including the application of charges. Recently, the City has enhanced the permitting regime for protests.

As a City Councillor I supported the adoption of the Bubble Zone By-law (Ottawa's Safe Access By-law) and was actively involved with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa as well as residents, city staff, and fellow councillors to ensure the bylaw was balanced to protect communities while not unreasonably infringing upon peaceful assembly respecting all applicable laws and By-laws.

3) Will you work with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to better equip municipal agencies, programs and civic institutions to recognize, prevent and respond effectively to antisemitism? Please share how you will accomplish this.

Yes. I have collaborated with leaders of the Jewish community, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to support City efforts to combat antisemitism (please see examples listed under response to question 1). As a City Councillor, I also supported efforts to specifically name antisemitism in the City of Ottawa's broader anti-racism strategy.

Through my engagement with members of the Jewish community in College Ward, I have grown to appreciate the burden of repeatedly educating the City about what antisemitism looks like after an incident has already occurred. These events serve to highlight the need to build this competency within the City's institutions. I support:

- Antisemitism training for City Staff to more effectively recognize antisemitic tropes, conspiracy theories, Holocaust denial/distortion, intimidation, harassment and hate symbols
- Standardized incident-reporting when an antisemitic incident occurs at a municipal facility, to ensure the response is effective and predictable (i.e., protects people from immediate harm, documentation of the incident, establishes need for police involvement, equipping the affected person/community with a clear reporting pathway, preservation of evidence, communicating appropriately with affected families/organizations, assessing whether municipal policy or security arrangements contributed to the vulnerability, taking corrective action)
- Scenario reviews or table top exercises amongst the City, Ottawa Police Service, school boards, Jewish Federation of Ottawa and relevant emergency partners, to identify gaps for remedial action.
- Enhancing accountability and transparency through public reporting of key performance metrics (e.g., training completed, reported incidents, response times, safety measures implemented, actions taken to address gaps).

Since October 7, hostility toward Israel and Zionism has increasingly affected Jewish residents here at home, including efforts to exclude or marginalize Jews based on their real or perceived connection to Israel.

4) Will you oppose efforts to bring international political campaigns, including BDS measures targeting Israel, into city politics?

I do not support efforts to turn Ottawa's municipal government into an arena for international political campaigns.

When it comes to Ottawa's municipal agenda I firmly believe the City must remain laser-focused on civic affairs within our own jurisdiction. The City's primary responsibility is delivering on core municipal issues, and we cannot afford to divert focus from resolving

our massive backlog of local priorities—including housing, transit, and emergency preparedness such as flood mitigation and recovery.

While my default stance is that the City should stay focused on its core mandate, I recognize that as Canada's capital, rare exceptions may arise. We have occasionally taken symbolic stances and/or discreet actions related to international matters where analysis indicates low risk of derailing our local mandate. I have expressed my support for "Buy Canadian" purchasing programs, adding "Free Ukraine" street signs near the Russian Embassy, placing commemorative signage near the Iranian Embassy honoring Mahsa Amini, or considering renaming "Trump Ave".

Outside of these specific, low-risk exceptions, I will continue to evaluate any motions related to international campaigns on a case-by-case basis, maintaining a clear boundary to ensure city activities stay dedicated to serving Ottawa residents.



Abakar Malloum

Candidate for City Council • Ward 8 — College

Email: abakarmalloumcollege@gmail.com

Website: <https://abakarmalloumcollege-ward.com/>

1) *What role can the City play to push back against antisemitism and the violent forms of antizionism so Jewish residents can live safely and openly in Ottawa?*

Antisemitism is hatred aimed at Jews as Jews, and it has to be named as such. The City's role is concrete: make sure synagogues, schools and community centres get the same fast response from police and by-law as any other site under threat; remove antisemitic graffiti quickly; and make sure Jewish residents can report incidents and see what happened next. My research field includes the prevention of violent extremism. It starts with taking early signs seriously, not waiting for violence.

2) *Ottawa has seen violent demonstrations where participants have expressed support for terrorist organizations and celebrated the October 7 attacks. What steps should the City take when events on public property cross the line into intimidation, hate, support for terrorism or threats to public safety?*

Peaceful protest is protected. Intimidation, threats, and support for terrorist organizations are not. When an event on public property crosses that line, existing laws and by-laws should be enforced consistently, whoever the organizers are. Permits for City property

should come with clear conditions, and the City should publish how it responded when those conditions were broken.

3) *Will you work with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to better equip municipal agencies, programs and civic institutions to recognize, prevent and respond effectively to antisemitism? Please share how you will accomplish this.*

Yes. Any issue affecting the Jewish community is my concern, and I will use every tool at my disposal so that Jewish residents of Ottawa feel safe. In practice, that means fast police and by-law response when a synagogue, school or community centre is threatened; quick removal of antisemitic graffiti; and a clear way for residents to report incidents and see what was done.

4) *Will you oppose efforts to bring international political campaigns, including BDS measures targeting Israel, into city politics?*

International political campaigns, from any side, don't belong on City Council's agenda. Council's job is municipal services: safety, infrastructure, housing. That is where I'll keep it.